

November 1, 2007

«Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Position»
«SPOE or DMH»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»
«City», «State» «Zip_Code»

Dear «Title» «Last_Name»:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has made its decision regarding the determination category for your System Point of Entry (SPOE) or Department of Mental Health (DMH) Regional Center. The U.S. Department of Education has established the categories each state must use for annual determinations of agencies providing early intervention services. These are the same four categories the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) used in making determinations about each state:

- Meets the requirements and purposes of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Needs assistance in implementing the requirements of the IDEA
- Needs intervention in implementing the requirements of the IDEA
- Needs substantial intervention in implementing the requirements of the IDEA

Missouri was notified that it was placed in the category “Needs Assistance in Implementing the Requirements of the IDEA,” and more information is available regarding Missouri’s determination in the First Steps Listserv message dated June 20, 2007.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your agency’s determination category is **«Determination»**, and to provide a brief summary of the regulatory requirements related to these determinations as well as information about the data that was used to make this determination.

The 2004 amendments to the IDEA required the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to make an annual determination as to whether each state is meeting the requirements of the statute. Under the IDEA each state is required to have in place a State Performance Plan (SPP) that evaluates its efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of IDEA and describes how the state will improve its implementation of these programs. Each state must then submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) detailing its progress in meeting the targets it established in its SPP.

OSEP’s determinations about states were based on the state’s February 1, 2007 APR, information obtained through monitoring visits and any other public information, but primarily focused this first year on demonstrated compliance, including timely correction of noncompliance, progress in ensuring compliance over prior performance in that area, whether the state provided valid and

reliable data for all indicators, and whether the state had other IDEA compliance issues identified in audits and the state's progress in resolving those problems.

For this first year of local determinations, states were required to review compliance or performance in these areas:

- SPP Indicator 1 (timely EI services)
- SPP Indicator 7 (45-day time-line)
- SPP Indicator 8a (transition steps and services), 8b (LEA notification with consent), and 8c (transition meeting held by 2.5 years)
- SPP Indicator 9 (timely correction of non-compliance)
- Timely and accurate data
- Audit findings

Attached you will find a description of the criteria DESE used in making the determinations for SPOE and DMH Regional Centers this year. In addition, the chart shown below provides information about your agency's scores in each area reviewed as well as the overall average of those scores.

Determination Area	SPOE/DMH Score
Audit Findings	«Audit»
Timely Correction of Noncompliance	«SPP_9»
Timely EI Services	«SPP_1»
Timely and Accurate Data	«Data»
45-day Time-line	«SPP_7»
Transition Steps and Services	«SPP_8a»
LEA Notification w/Consent	«SPP_8b»
Transition Meeting Held by 2.5 Years	«SPP_8c»
Average	«Average»

As mentioned in the SELS message of June 20, 2007, this is our first year of making these determinations, and our criteria are subject to change in the future. It is also important to keep in mind that these determinations are based on a different set of data and criteria than the data and criteria that will be used in making compliance decisions or Improvement Plan recommendations during the cyclical monitoring process.

It is our hope that this process, along with the other processes Missouri DESE uses to meet its responsibilities for general supervision and monitoring will not only lead to increased compliance with the requirements of IDEA, but ultimately, and most importantly, will help improve outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities throughout our state.

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Special Education, Compliance Section 573-751-0699.

Sincerely,



Heidi Atkins Lieberman, Assistant
Commissioner
Division of Special Education

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Enclosure

cc: D. Kent King, Commissioner of Education
Bert Schulte, Deputy Commissioner of Education
«Area_Dir_Fname» «Area_Dir_Lname», DESE Area Director